

POLS 338 / WMNS 338: Women & Politics
2:00 – 3:15 pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays
(Location Redacted)

Instructor: Clarisse Warren clarisse.warren@huskers.unl.edu (Location redacted)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00 – 2:00 (or by appointment)

Required Textbooks

Women and politics: Paths to power and political influence (Fourth Edition). 2019. Dolan, J., Deckman, M. M., & Swers, M. L. Rowman & Littlefield.

Women's Rights in the USA: Policy Debates and Gender Roles. 5th Edition. 2016. Dorothy E. McBride and Janine A. Parry. Routledge.

The Political Psychology of Women in U.S. Politics. 2017. Angela L. Bos and Monica C. Schneider, eds. Routledge.

Additional articles and materials available online through Canvas.

Course Objectives

- Understand the history and current state of women in the American political process and the associated impact on public policy, especially as it relates to representation and interest.
- Understand the effects and intersections of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, and citizenship status on access to power and resources as well as political attitudes and engagement.
- Distinguish between empirical and normative questions; that is, differentiate between the current state of the world (how it is) and a desired state of the world (ought to be) and how public policy is the means to bridge that space.

Course Requirements

Participation (100 points) – The success of this course will depend upon student participation in class discussion and activities so these points will be divided between showing up and speaking up. As this is a large portion of your final grade, it is in your best interest to show up and speak up. I recognize that you may not be familiar with the material or may feel that you have nothing to contribute. That is not correct thinking. Your voice and perspective matters, and it is only through open, civil discourse that we can all learn and grow together.

Examinations (100 points each) – You will have three examinations, worth 100 points each. The exams will largely be multiple choice, matching, short answer, and each will have a couple short essay questions. Review sessions will be held before each examination.

Final Paper (100 points) – Students will write a 5-7 page argumentative research-based paper that tackles a current issue related to gender and politics. I will be asking you to submit your issue and your position on the issue by the end of week 3 of class. While more details will soon follow, the basics are such that: 1) These papers should be designed in such a way that the extant literature is

reviewed on all sides of the issue, 2) Students may use either quantitative sources, qualitative sources, or both to explore their research question, 3) Papers should include at least 10 outside sources (properly cited) in addition to any course materials used. This assignment should be submitted online in Canvas, using 12-point font, double spaced, with 1-inch margins. **Due May 2 at 11:59 PM.**

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Points
Class Participation	100
Exams (3)	300
Final Paper	100
TOTAL	500

The following grading scale will be used based on the total number of points you receive:

97-100% = A+	87-89.9% = B+	77-79.9% = C+	67-69.9% = D+
93-96.9% = A	83-86.9% = B	73-76.9% = C	63-66.9% = D
90-92.9% = A-	80-82.9% = B-	70-72.9% = C-	60-62.9% = D-
			59.9% and below = F

if you are concerned about your grade, talk to me sooner rather than later

Honors Credit

Students taking this course for honors credit will have additional requirements to receive credit for this course. In addition to the aforementioned course requirements, honors students are expected to complete the following additional assignments: 1) two documentary reaction papers, and 2) an extension of the final paper.

Documentary Reaction Papers (50 points each): Honors students are required to complete two documentary reaction papers (3-5 pages in length) on one of the in-class documentaries presented and one documentary of their choosing. A list of approved documentaries will be provided. These documentaries can be viewed on either Netflix, Amazon Prime, or Hulu. If a student does not have access to these sources, I will provide a documentary viewing time with my personal account. These reaction papers should focus less on summary and more on implications for women and society more broadly. Reaction papers are due **4 days after viewing** of the documentary. As students can select which of the 2 documentaries they will write about, students should be careful to observe the 4 day due date. For the watch-at-home documentary, students must submit their documentary reaction paper by **April 21 at 11:59 PM.**

Final Paper Extension (100 points in addition to the minimum requirements): Honors students will be required to extend their argumentative research paper to approximately 12-17 pages in length. Students will need to more fully explore their chosen topic, providing in-depth history, discussion, and explication on both sides of the issue. Papers should include a minimum of 15 outside sources, in addition to any sources used from this course. I will provide detailed feedback on this paper if a draft is provided two weeks prior to the due date. This paper should be submitted online via Canvas, using 12-point font, double spaced, with 1-inch margins. **Due May 2 at 11:59 PM.**

Grade Breakdown for Honors Students

Assignment	Points
Class Participation	100
Exams (3)	300
Class Documentary Paper	50
Home Documentary Paper	50
Final Paper	200
TOTAL	700

The following grading scale will be used based on the total number of points you receive:

97-100% = A+	87-89.9% = B+	77-79.9% = C+	67-69.9% = D+
93-96.9% = A	83-86.9% = B	73-76.9% = C	63-66.9% = D
90-92.9% = A-	80-82.9% = B-	70-72.9% = C-	60-62.9% = D-
			59.9% and below = F

Course Policies

Deadlines

The deadlines listed on the course schedule are set. I will not accept late assignments or allow students to take missed exams. If you have a verified excuse, such as a University sponsored event or medical emergency, you should notify the instructor immediately. If you have a valid/verified excuse you may be granted an exception at the instructor's discretion.

Technology in Class

Cell phone use during class is prohibited. Similarly, notes should be taken the old fashioned way – using paper and some writing utensil. Not only does research show that students learn better when taking notes by hand rather than typing, I have taken enough 400/800 courses during my graduate education to know that a vast majority of students who are “taking notes” on laptops are actually enjoying social media, shopping, replying to email, working on other course work, and in one particularly interesting case watching nearly the entirety of a season of *Friends* on Netflix. As this is not conducive to learning and engaging with the material, much like the student watching *Friends*, we will take a trip back to the 1990's and use old fashioned pen and paper. Except in extenuating circumstances (which will be decided on a case-by-case basis), technology use is not permitted during class time.

Questions about the Course

The best way to reach me is through email. I will do my best to respond to students' questions within 24 hours. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, please send your email again. I am also readily available during office hours.

Conduct

We will be discussing politics and many hot-button issues. I understand that some students may possess deeply held beliefs. The course is not meant to change beliefs, but to create an open dialogue about differing opinions and viewpoints. Students are asked to keep an open mind, attempt to understand other perspectives, and maintain a professional level of courtesy to everyone who enters the classroom. **Personal attacks will not be tolerated**, and repeated

instances of it will result in expulsion from the classroom for the day.

Academic Misconduct Warning

Academic dishonesty in all forms will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Any violations will automatically be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. For your reference, academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following: cheating, fabrication and falsification, plagiarism, and misrepresentation to avoid academic work. Ignorance of what is academically dishonest is not an acceptable excuse (nor is any other excuse you may come up with). If you are unsure about referencing a source or whether a particular action is considered to be dishonest, please ask your instructor right away.

If it is found that you have cheated or plagiarized any part of your work, you will receive an F for the entire course, no questions asked. Additionally, your name will be referred to UNL Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action, which can include academic probation or expulsion from the university (See Section 4.2 of the Student Code of Conduct)

Students with Disabilities or Special Needs

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. If you have disabilities or special needs that require academic accommodation, please notify me of those conditions and requested accommodations during the first week of class. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 402-472-3787.

Stressed Out?

Stress during college is inevitable. It's a time of great change and growth. If you are feeling stress, you are not alone. During the semester, if you find that life stressors are interfering with your academic or personal success, consider contacting Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). All UNL students are eligible for individual counseling services, which are paid for by your student fees. CAPS is located in the University Health Center, level 2 (enter CAPS suite 233) and can be contacted by phone (402-472-7450). For more information, see the CAPS website at: <https://health.unl.edu/caps>.

Life Events

While college can be a trying time for students, I am here to help (within my ability to do so). If you have unique situations, challenges, hardships, or even quirks I am more than happy to talk about them with you and do what I can to help make your experience in this class a more positive one. There are also many resources available through the university and the community, and I am willing to help you navigate finding them. There is one caveat: I cannot help you if I do not know about the situation. It is for this reason your very first assignment includes an information sheet with a personal narrative. This is not graded and all responses are kept completely confidential, but it will allow me to get to know you and your unique circumstances better.

UNL Political Science welcomes students from around the world and recognizes the unique perspectives international students bring to enrich the campus community. If your first language is not English and/or you are an international student, please come and talk to me about specific ways

I can support you. For more information on campus-wide resources, visit <https://isso.unl.edu/>.

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred pronouns. The closest all-gender bathroom is in Love Library (449) or on the 7th floor of Oldfather Hall.

If you are a parent or child's primary guardian, please talk to me about extenuating circumstances that may require that you, on occasion, bring a (healthy) child to class with you. Additionally, there are lactation spaces available in Louise Pound Hall, rooms 026 and 217.

Changes to this Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change to accommodate student interests, current events, schedule changes (e.g., due to weather or illness), or unforeseen opportunities or challenges. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class. As is often the case, I may discuss syllabus changes with the class prior to making them, when possible.

Course Schedule

Students will be expected to have read the assigned text by the date listed for each topic.

PART I: WOMEN & POLITICS BASICS

Jan. 14: Course Introduction

Jan 16: Why Study Women & Politics / Gender and Politics

Read: Moi, T. (2006). "I am not a feminist, but...": how feminism became the f-word (on Canvas)

Read: Bittner, A., & Goodyear-Grant, E. (2017). Sex isn't gender: Reforming concepts and measurements in the study of public opinion. *Political Behavior*, 39(4), 1019-1041. (on Canvas)

Jan 21: Words Matter

Listen: The Secret Life of Words: Lecture 26 "Spinster, Bachelor, Guy, Dude"

Listen: The Secret Life of Words: Lecture 27 "Firefighters and Freshpersons"

(Text available upon request for anyone needing accommodations)

**The Secret Life of Words: English Words and Their Origins by Dr. Anne Curzan

 Turn In: Information Sheet & Personal Narrative

Jan 28: Intersectionality

Read: Bowleg, L. (2008). When Black+ lesbian+ woman ≠ Black lesbian woman: The methodological challenges of qualitative and quantitative intersectionality research. *Sex roles*, 59(5-6), 312-325. (On Canvas)

Jan 30: Historical Roots of Women in Politics

Read: McBride & Parry Chapter 2

Read: Dolan et al. Chapter 2

PART II: WOMEN & POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Feb 4: Women and Socialization

Read: Bos & Schneider Chapter 2 and Chapter 4

Feb 6: Women and Activism

Read: Bos & Schneider Chapter 3

Mendes, K., Ringrose, J., & Keller, J. (2018). # MeToo and the promise and pitfalls of challenging rape culture through digital feminist activism. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 25(2), 236-246. (on Canvas)

Feb 11: Women and Political Participation

Read: Bos & Schneider Chapter 3

Bos & Schneider Chapter 6

Feb 13: Test Review Day

Feb 18: Exam 1

 Assignment Due: Final Paper Issue Topic & Issue Position

PART III: WOMEN & PUBLIC POLICY

Feb 20: Education

Read: McBride & Parry Chapter 5

Mitchell, K. M., & Martin, J. (2018). Gender bias in student evaluations. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 51(3), 648-652. (On Canvas)

Feb 25: Work and Pay / Work and Family

Read: McBride & Parry Chapter 6

McBride & Parry Chapter 7

McBride & Parry Chapter 8

Feb 27: The Feminization of Poverty in America (and Around the World)

Read: Bos & Schneider Chapter 5

McBride & Parry Chapter 11

Friedan Chapter 1 (on Canvas)

Mar 3: Reproductive Rights

Read: McBride & Parry Chapter 4

Braunschweiger, A. (2019, December 11). US State of Ohio Proposes Extreme Abortion Ban. Retrieved from *Human Rights Watch*

Mar 5: Sexuality: Regulation & Intimidation

Read: McBride & Parry Chapter 9

McBride & Parry Chapter 10

PBS (2016) Unwanted Sterilization & Eugenics Programs in the United States. (On Canvas)

*Begin Documentary One Child Nation (on Amazon Prime)

Mar 10: Reproduction & Sexuality, Regulation and Intimidation

*Finish Documentary, One Child Nation & Discussion

Mar 12: Test Review Day

Mar 17: Exam 2

PART IV: WOMEN & PUBLIC OFFICE

Mar 19: Women & Political Representation (Special Guest Speaker)

Mar 24 - 26: SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Mar 31: Paths to Power/Aiming for Elected Office

Read: Dolan et al. Chapter 4
Bos & Schneider Chapter 8
Bos & Schneider Chapter 9

Apr 2: Running for Office and Political Parties

Read: Dolan et al. Chapter 5
Bos & Schneider Chapter 10
Bos & Schneider Chapter 11

Apr 7: Women in Local Politics and Government

Read: Dolan et al. Chapter 6

Apr 9: Feb 13: Women and the Judiciary

Read: Dolan et al. Chapter 9
Bos & Schneider Chapter 13

Apr 14: Movie Day: RBG (Documentary on Hulu)

Apr 16: SELF CARE DAY – NO CLASS

👉 Assignment: Take care of yourself today. Relax, grab a coffee, take a nap, whatever you need.

Apr 21: Women and the Legislative Branch

Read: Dolan et al. Chapter 7
Bos & Schneider Chapter 12

👉 Honors: Documentary reaction papers due

Apr 23: Women and the Executive Branch

Read: Dolan et al. Chapter 8
Warren, Gothreau, & Friesen (On Canvas)

Apr 28: Where Do We Go from Here?

Apr 30: Final Exam Review

👉 **May 2: Final Paper Due by 11:59 PM**

May 6 at 1:00 PM: Final Exam